MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

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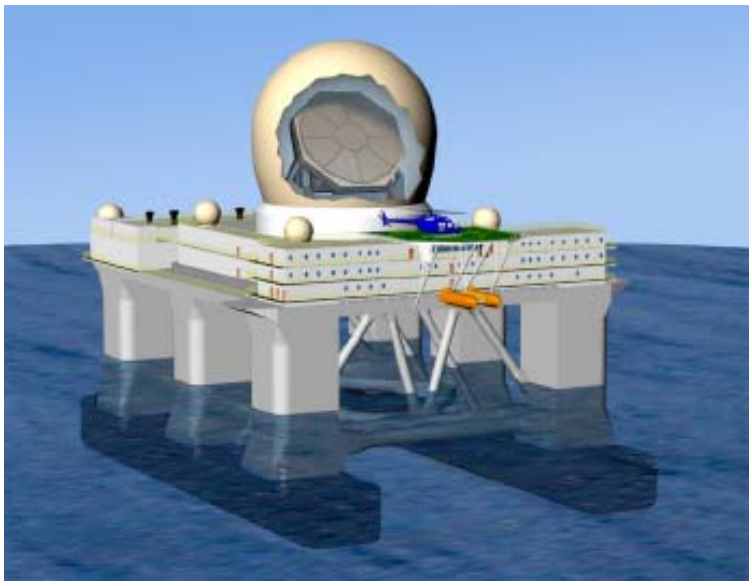
Fact Sheet

Sea-Based X-Band Radar



Once integrated into the Ballistic Missile Defense System, the Sea-Based X-Band Radar will track, discriminate and assess incoming target missiles and will greatly increase the Missile Defense Agency's ability to conduct strenuous, operationally realistic testing of its Ground-Based Midcourse Defense element.

Overview

- A unique combination of an advanced X-band radar with a mobile, ocean-going, semi-submersible platform that provides the Ballistic Missile Defense System with a detection and discrimination capability that can be positioned to cover any part of the globe.
- The radar is based on a high tech, fifth generation oil drilling platform. It is twin-hulled, self propelled and very stable in high winds and turbulent sea conditions.
- Its ocean-spanning mobility allows the radar to be repositioned as needed to support the various test scenarios envisioned for the Ballistic Missile Defense System or to provide radar coverage of possible threat missile launches from anywhere in the world..

Details

- The radar is 240 feet wide and 390 feet long. It towers more than 280 feet from its keel to the top of the radar dome and will displace nearly 30,000 tons once the 2,000,000 lb X-Band radar is mounted.
- As big as two football fields, the main deck will house living quarters, workspaces, storage, power generation, a bridge and control rooms while providing the floor space and infrastructure necessary to support the radar antenna array, command control and communications suites, and an In-flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminal.
- The radar will be manned by approximately 65 crew members with berthing spaces for as many as 105 personnel.

Development

- Currently undergoing final fitting and yard work at a shipyard in Texas, the Sea-Based X-Band platform, radar and support systems are scheduled to be fully integrated and available for use in the Ballistic Missile Defense System by the end of 2005.
- Sea trials will be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico before the vessel moves to its primary support base at Adak, Alaska.